



POWER FACTS

An informational publication for members of Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative concerning electricity and related subjects.

MARCH 2013

Celebrating 75 Years

Happy Anniversary to Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative!!



As a rural patron, we all know the inconveniences of having to run back to town because we forgot to get milk at the grocery store, or having to drive to Richmond to the doctor because that is where the specialist is located, or not being able to get affordable high-speed internet because we live too far out of town. But, could you imagine your life without electricity simply because you live in the rural countryside?

Fortunately for our society, 75 years ago, farmers and other rural residents decided that they didn't want this to be an inconvenience anymore for them either. While nearby urban areas were being furnished with electricity, the rural residents were denied this luxury. The utility companies did not want to extend services outside of urban areas because of costs involved in running lines to homes that were spread so widely apart. Supplying urban areas

meant, and continues to mean, lower costs due to less lines and more population.

Because of this, residents of Mecklenburg County put their heads together until they found a way to bring electricity to the countryside. With hard work, they formed committees, mapped out the details of each community, went door to door asking for \$5 from each homeowner to become members of the cooperative, and prepared studies for funding from the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). With one trip to D.C., these residents were successful in proving the need for electricity in our rural communities; and hence, Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative was chartered on March 18, 1938, by the State Corporation Commission to serve Mecklenburg, Brunswick, Charlotte and Lunenburg counties.

MEC's first lines were energized in October of 1938. MEC had two substations, 136 miles of line, and served 436 members in the rural countryside.

As soon as the loan for Mecklenburg County was approved, other counties became interested also and began mapping their communities for service. By 1940, MEC had secured additional loans and was beginning to serve Halifax, Pittsylvania, Greensville, Sussex and Southampton counties with electricity.

Today, MEC proudly serves over 31,000 accounts and maintains over 4,400 miles of line. It serves nine counties in Virginia and is one of over 700 Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, which collectively make



Pictured above is the old Headquarters office building of MEC located at the intersection of, what is now, Hwy 92 East and Sycamore Street in Chase City, VA. The office moved to Chase City from the Old Town Office Building in Boydton in December 1939. In June 1950, MEC moved to its current location on Hwy 92 West.

up the largest electric utility network in the nation.

MEC was founded by its members and has never lost sight of the fact that it exists to meet the electric needs of its members. This year we celebrate those who have helped establish your Cooperative: our member-owners, your elected board of directors, employees past and present, and all of those who have been a part of this organization's success. Please join us for the Annual Meeting of the Members on June 19 as we celebrate this significant milestone of 75 years of service!

MEC offices will be closed Monday, April 1, 2013, in observance of Easter.



SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS



Abby Woltz, 2012 MEC Scholarship Recipient
Halifax County High School
Daughter of Joni and Edward Woltz
Radford University

Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative (MEC) Scholarship - Each year MEC awards a \$500 scholarship to students in nine different high schools.

Requirements:

- Parent or guardian must be a member of MEC
- Student must plan to attend an accredited institution of higher learning to obtain a two - or four-year degree.
- Must have maintained at least a 3.0 GPA (based on 4.0 being an A)
- Exhibit commendable leadership abilities
- Demonstrate exemplary school spirit

**** DEADLINE - April 1, 2013 ****

(Please see your school's guidance counselor for an application)

Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives' (VMDAEC) Educational Scholarship - Scholarships that will be awarded to graduating seniors are \$1,000 Worth M. Hudson Scholarship, \$500 VMDAEC Educational Foundation Scholarship, and \$1,000 C. D Hypes Memorial Scholarship.

Scholarships are based on three major criteria:

- 40% financial need
- 40% academic achievement
- 20% personal statement

**** DEADLINE - March 8, 2013, for electronic application form ****

**** March 15, 2013, for postmarking application packet ****

(Visit www.vmdaec.com and click on community resources for more detailed information)

SPRING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER



It's almost time to put away the winter gear and step out into the spring season. Whether you're working or playing, however, please be cautious about how you use electricity outdoors.

- When using power tools outdoors, use only extension cords that are marked "for outdoor use." Examine cords for frays before each use. Do not use if damaged. Remember, extension cords are for short term use and not for long term power solutions.
- Use wooden or fiberglass ladders when working near electrical wiring. Metal ladders conduct electricity.
- When working or playing outside, always check the surrounding area to ensure that you will not accidentally come in contact with overhead power lines.
- Remember that power lines are underground as well. Before you dig to plant a tree or put in a fence, call 811 to have all utility lines marked.

***Don't Forget to Turn Your
Clocks UP on
March 10th.***

